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Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, September 11, 2014

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Speaker Bobby Harrell News:

Post and Courier: House Speaker Bobby Harrell indicted on nine counts in corruption probe
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140910/PC1603/140919942>

Jeremy Borden, Schuyler Kropf

House Speaker Bobby Harrell was indicted by a grand jury Wednesday on nine ethics and misconduct charges, sparking calls from the governor and others for him to step aside from his leadership post until his legal troubles play out.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley joined the list of those calling on Harrell to step down. When asked if Haley thought Harrell should resign his post, spokesman Doug Mayer answered "yes" but would not comment further

Associated Press: SC House Speaker Harrell charged with misconduct

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=TCXVScWp

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell was indicted Wednesday on misdemeanor charges that he misused his office for personal gain and lied to law enforcement about his campaign expenses, according to court documents.

Note: Others calling for Harrell to resign his powerful speaker's post while the case plays out include Republican Gov. Nikki Haley; her Democratic challenger, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen; and state Democratic Party Chairman Jaime Harrison.

Greenville News: Harrell indictment brings calls to resign

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/09/10/sc-house-speaker-bobby-harrell-indicted/15393729/>

Tim Smith

House Speaker Bobby Harrell used his campaign account for tens of thousands of dollars in personal expenses, prosecutors are alleging in a nine-count indictment.

Note: Doug Mayer, a spokesman for Gov. Nikki Haley, asked whether the governor felt that Harrell should resign as speaker, said yes, with no further comment.

The State: SC Speaker Harrell indicted for misconduct in office, ethics violations

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/10/3672218/richland-county-grand-jury-indicts.html>

John Monk

After months of trying to shut down an investigation into his use of campaign money, S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell was indicted Wednesday on nine charges, including illegally using campaign money for his personal expenses, filing false campaign disclosure reports and misconduct in office.

Note: Shortly thereafter, Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and several House members said Harrell should resign as speaker.

Note: Haley would not elaborate on why she thought her fellow Republican should step aside. But the pair have quarreled for years, dating back to her days as a state representative from Lexington when, she said, Harrell stripped her of a choice committee assignment.

Anderson Independent: S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell facing criminal charges

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/sc-house-speaker-bobby-harrell-facing-criminal-charges>

Kirk Brown

Indictments issued Wednesday accuse South Carolina House of Representatives Speaker Bobby Harrell of illegally reimbursing himself with campaign money for nonexistent airplane flights and other false claims.

Note: Responding to a question Wednesday night, a spokesman for Republican Gov. Nikki Haley said she thinks that Harrell should resign as House speaker.

WACH: Gov. Haley calls on Harrell to step down after indictment

<http://www.wach.com/news/story.aspx?id=1095047#.VBGPXvldV1Y>

Governor Nikki Haley is calling on South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell to step down after he was indicted on misdemeanor charges that he used campaign donations for personal benefit and lied to law enforcement about his campaign expenses.

Rock Hill Herald: York County lawmakers react to Harrell indictment

http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/09/10/6312411_legislators-react-to-speakers.html?rh=1

Andrew Dys, Bristow Marchant

The indictment of S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell has shaken up the Legislature even before voters have a chance to head to the polls this fall. And it's caused some critical remarks from some members of York County's delegation. The indictment of Harrell is "the best thing that could happen for the people of South Carolina who want sunshine on the way elected officials do business," said Rep. Ralph Norman, R-Rock Hill, after Harrell "lost the trust of the people of this state for the way he did things."

The State: Suitors lining up to succeed Bobby Harrell as SC House speaker

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/10/3673312/suitors-lining-up-to-succeed-bobby.html>

Andrew Shain

At least four House leaders, including the second-highest ranking state representative, are looking to succeed embattled S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell. The candidates started lining up as some legislators said Wednesday that Harrell should step down as speaker after the Charleston Republican's indictment on campaign finance charges.

Wall Street Journal: S.C. House Speaker Indicted on Campaign Finance Violations

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/s-c-house-speaker-indicted-on-campaign-finance-violations-1410387248>

Valerie Bauerlein

South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell was indicted on a slate of campaign-finance violations Wednesday, including allegedly claiming reimbursement for private flights he didn't take and using campaign donations to hire a secretary for his private insurance business.

Reuters: South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell Indicted On Nine Criminal Charges

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/10/bobby-harrell-indicted_n_5799070.html?utm_hp_ref=politics

Harriet McLeod

South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell used hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign funds for personal expenses and falsified his private plane's logbook to seek payment for travel that did not occur, a nine-count indictment on Wednesday said.

The State: Reaction from around the state about charges against SC Speaker of the House Bobby Harrell

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/10/3673309/reaction-to-charges-against-sc.html>

Punch in the gut. "I was terribly disappointed in what I read (Harrell) allegedly did. ... (H)e's got some explaining to do. ... It really is a punch in the gut for everyone in public office." – State Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Larry Martin, R-Pickens

Post and Courier: A look at the Speaker Pro Tempore

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140910/PC1603/140919914>

Jeremy Borden, Robert Behre

S.C. Speaker Pro Tempore James H. "Jay" Lucas, R-Hartsville, was elected to the House's No. 2 leadership post four years ago. He started serving in the House in 1999, and his district covers the rural, north-central part of the state, including pieces of Chesterfield, Darlington, Kershaw and Lancaster counties.

The State: Prosecutor who indicted Harrell a straight shooter, say Democratic and Republican former bosses

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/10/3673160/prosecutor-who-indicted-harrell.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

David Pascoe, who convinced a Richland County grand jury to indict S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell, has a reputation as a savvy, experienced fighting prosecutor. "He's smart, has integrity and was one of the best prosecutors who ever worked for me – and I had a lot of good ones," said former 5th Circuit Solicitor Barney Giese.

Times and Democrat: Lawmakers feel no joy at charges

http://thetandd.com/lawmakers-feel-no-joy-at-charges/article_16fcf472-3966-11e4-a4ae-9b8a31898142.html

Martha Rose Brown

After hearing Wednesday that a grand jury indicted House Speaker Bobby Harrell, Rep. Jerry Govan said “I don’t take any joy in hearing sad news like that.” The Orangeburg Democrat said, “Bobby is a family man. He’s an individual who’s very committed to public service. He loves South Carolina.”

Post and Courier: About David Pascoe

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140910/PC1603/140919913>

Jeremy Borden, Schuyler Kropf

The solicitor who filed Wednesday's indictment against House Speaker Bobby Harrell is a graduate of both The Citadel and the University of South Carolina School of Law and has more than 20 years of experience in criminal prosecution.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Rock Hill Herald: ‘Independent Republican’ for SC governor campaigns in York, Lancaster counties

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/09/10/6312434/independent-republican-for-governor.html>

Bristow Marchant

Dining out turned into a campaign event Wednesday when Tom Ervin turned up to meet voters at three restaurants in York and Lancaster counties. The Greenville businessman who bills himself as an “independent Republican” is running for governor against incumbent Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and Democratic State Sen. Vincent Sheheen.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Sun News: 9/11 anniversary should serve to mend our nation’s destructive rifts

[http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/09/10/4465186/editorial-911-anniversary-should.html?](http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/09/10/4465186/editorial-911-anniversary-should.html?sp=/99/158/#storylink=cpy)

[sp=/99/158/#storylink=cpy](http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/09/10/4465186/editorial-911-anniversary-should.html?sp=/99/158/#storylink=cpy)

Editorial

Thirteen years ago Thursday we all started our mornings with the usual worries: getting to work on time; getting the kids to school on time; wondering how the boss would react to our presentation; searching for a parking space in a crowded lot.

Times and Democrat: Remembering 9-11, learning to live with your regrets

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/remembering---learning-to-live-with-your-regrets/article_190bb390-3969-11e4-9c71-930314a67e70.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: 21st century day of infamy; OUR OPINION: Dangerous times ahead as nation remembers. The 13th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, is a time for America to reflect on the worst attack ever on our shores.

Post and Courier: Speaker should cede position

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140911/PC1002/140919897>

Editorial

First Circuit Solicitor David Pascoe and the Richland County Grand Jury have finally broken the logjam over the ethics charges facing House Speaker Bobby Harrell, and in short order. On Wednesday, Mr. Pascoe filed nine indictments related to Mr. Harrell's use of campaign funds, primarily for the operation of his private aircraft. Pending the resolution of those charges, Mr. Harrell should step down as speaker.

Post and Courier (Guest Column): It's time to set the record straight on S.C. State

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140911/PC1002/140919901>

Thomas J. Elzey

In recent years, news of the trials and turmoils of South Carolina State University has dominated the headlines of every local and regional news entity. Without a doubt, S.C. State is the hot plate upon which many have built their lunch and dinner-table conversations, street-side chatter and even political rhetoric.

The State: Columbia’s police chiefs should expect surprise

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/10/3673049/bolton-columbias-police-chiefs.html>

Warren Bolton

Police Chief Skip Holbrook took the job knowing he had inherited a department that was undermanned, shaken by scandal, low on morale and in need of an overhaul. He smartly announced a 90-day review of the department to help forge a plan to improve it.

Jones Children News:

Wall Street Journal: Father Accused of Killing His 5 Children to be Charged in South Carolina
<http://online.wsj.com/articles/father-accused-of-killing-his-5-children-to-be-charged-in-south-carolina-1410387362>

Cameron McWhirter

A South Carolina father accused of murdering his five children has given no motive for why he allegedly took their lives, then drove for days with their bodies stuffed in plastic bags in the back of his car, law-enforcement officials said Wednesday.

Note: The case has horrified South Carolina and the rural Red Bank community about 20 miles outside Columbia where Mr. Jones lived. "We grieve together for our lost ones, and we pray together for those touched by these horrific tragedies," Gov. Nikki Haley said in a statement.

Post and Courier: S.C. dad confessed to killing his 5 children, authorities say
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140910/PC1610/140919961>

Cynthia Roldan

A Lexington County man has admitted to killing his five children, and traveling three states with their bodies in garbage bags before dumping them in Alabama, authorities said Wednesday. Timothy Ray Jones, 32, confessed to Mississippi authorities that he had killed his children and dumped their bodies. On Tuesday, he led law enforcement to the children's resting place on a rural Alabama road.

The State: Family of slain Lexington County children had 3 reports with Social Services
http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/11/3673635_family-of-slain-lexington-county.html?rh=1

Jamie Self

The Department of Social Services has three reports on record about the slain Lexington County children whose father authorities say has confessed in their deaths. Shortly before midnight Wednesday, Social Services released its records on the family.

The State: Sheriff: 'I've never seen a case like this'

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/10/3672536/sheriff-we-dont-know-why-father.html>

Harrison Cahill

Law enforcement officials said Wednesday they still have no motive from the Lexington County father who will be charged in the killing of his five children in one of the largest mass murders in recent Midlands history.

Associated Press: 'Loving' father now tied to his 5 kids' deaths

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OeXxuFYQ

Jeffrey Collins, Jay Reeves

The children's journey to that isolated hilltop in central Alabama covered hundreds of miles and crisscrossed several Southeastern states as Jones drove his Cadillac Escalade around for days, using bleach to try to mask the smell of the decomposing bodies, authorities said Wednesday.

Associated Press: Records: Dad accused in killings had nasty divorce

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=C0IDyr9L

Jeffrey Collins, Jay Reeves

Timothy Ray Jones Jr. earned his computer engineering degree, worked at a \$71,000-a-year job, had a wife of 10 years and several young children. Then, just over two years ago, he discovered his wife was putting their children to bed in their South Carolina home and going to the neighbor's house and sleeping with the neighbor's 19-year-old son, according to divorce papers.

The State: Parents of 5 slain Lexington County children had troubled marriage

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/10/3672454/divorce-records-show-parents-of.html>

Tim Flach

The 10-year marriage of the parents of five slain Lexington County children ended in divorce last fall, after

allegations of the mother's affair and a complaint that she neglected the youngsters, court records show.

CBS News: S.C. dad to be charged with murder in death of 5 kids

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/south-carolina-dad-to-be-charged-with-murder-in-death-of-5-kids/>

Authorities say a South Carolina man will be charged with murder in the deaths of his five children after he led officials to a secluded clearing in Alabama where their bodies were found wrapped in garbage bags and confessed to killing them.

The State: SLED chief: Case of five missing Lexington County children did not meet AMBER Alert criteria

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/10/3672613/sled-chief-case-of-five-missing.html#storylink=cpy>

Harrison Cahill

Lexington County Sheriff Lewis McCarty and SLED Chief Mark Keel defended the decision not to issue an AMBER Alert in the case of five missing children, saying it did not meet the criteria used to determine the appropriateness of such an alert.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: S.C. House domestic violence committee set to begin hearings next week

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140910/PC1603/140919906>

Glenn Smith

Prosecutors, victim advocates, shelter workers, a judge and others are expected to testify next week before a House committee tasked with developing a strategy for improving the state's domestic violence laws. The Criminal Domestic Violence Reform Committee is scheduled to hold its first hearing Wednesday in Columbia.

The State: Federal marketplace insurance shoppers will have more choice in SC

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/10/3672232/federal-marketplace-insurance.html>

Joey Holleman

South Carolina consumers searching for health insurance on the federal insurance marketplace through the Affordable Care Act this year will have more than twice as many choices as last year. The S.C. Department of Insurance on Wednesday released some details on the plans to be offered in the state this year. There will be 126 different plans from five companies.

WCIV: Domestic violence committee meeting set for next week

<http://www.abcnews4.com/story/26501621/domestic-violence-committee-meeting-set-for-next-week>

State Speaker Bobby Harrell's criminal domestic violence committee already has plans to meet twice in the coming weeks. According to Rep. Peter McCoy, the ad hoc committee to study the state's decades old criminal domestic violence laws has set its first two meeting dates.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Charleston home sales up 3% for August, but prices don't budge

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140910/PC05/140919911>

John McDermott

Home sales edged higher in the Charleston region last month, though the pace continued to slow, according to a new report. The Charleston Trident Association of Realtors said Wednesday that 1,358 homes changed hands in August, up 3 percent from 1,318 transactions a year earlier.

National News:

New York Times: Obama, in Speech on ISIS, Promises Sustained Effort to Rout Militants

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/11/world/middleeast/obama-speech-isis.html>

Mark Landler

President Obama on Wednesday authorized a major expansion of the military campaign against rampaging Sunni militants in the Middle East, including American airstrikes in Syria and the deployment of 475 more military advisers to Iraq. But he sought to dispel fears that the United States was embarking on a repeat of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Wall Street Journal: Jay Carney Debates John McCain After Obama Speech

<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2014/09/10/jay-carney-debates-john-mccain-after-obama-speech/>

Jeffrey Sparshott

Sen. John McCain (R., Ariz.) came out swinging after President Barack Obama's remarks outlining his strategy to confront Islamic State, and had tough words for the president's former chief spokesman, Jay Carney, who is now a TV commentator.

Politico: Democrats push for immigration delay

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/09/immigration-delay-democrats-110836.html>

Seung Min Kim

Some Senate Democrats are pressing the White House to hold off indefinitely on unilaterally making immigration changes — not just until after the election. The resistance is coming from Democrats facing tough reelection bids this fall and other moderate voices in the party who say President Barack Obama shouldn't use executive authority to ease deportations at any time.

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